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De la suggestion et du somnambulisme dans leurs rapports avec la jurisprudence et la médecine légale. JULES LIÉGEOIS. *Revue de l'Hypnotisme*, June, 1888.

Un nouvel état psychologique. JULES LIÉGEOIS. *Revue de l'Hypnotisme*, August, 1888.

M. Liégeois, the jurist, whose memoir on hypnotic suggestion was lately reviewed in this journal, gives, under the above titles, two extracts from the forthcoming book into which that memoir has grown. The first is from the chapter on suggestion in the waking state. He recounts a number of experiments in which he was able, without putting the subject into the somnambulatory state, to bring about by suggestion sense illusions and the future imperative execution of suggestions as in post-hypnotic acts. He recognizes, however, that the subjects are not quite in a natural condition, though apparently so. The experiment succeeded only with very susceptible subjects that had previously been hypnotized. Their state seemed to be one of concentrated attention to the idea suggested, and this he was able to induce readily by accompanying his words with very energetic fixation of regard.

In the second he gives some recent experiments on the state of negative hallucination, that is, the state in which on suggestion the subject, after apparently awaking, remains unable to perceive a designated person or thing. With Mme. M—, a susceptible subject from the clinic of Dr. Liébeault, he found that, though she gave no sign of perceiving him when he stood before her or addressed her directly or when he pricked her with a pin, or when others asked her about him, yet when he made suggestions to her, impersonally as it were, in a high voice, she carried them out. Tests are fully reported which he made upon Camille S., a subject whom he takes pains to say Dr. Liébeault and he had always found of entire good faith in a four years' acquaintance. Camille S. was made oblivious to M. Liégeois, and when awakened came into complete rapport with all except him. She remained anæsthetic to him alone. Directly addressed by him, she appeared not to hear, but, addressed after the manner of an inner voice, she showed the somnambulatory automatism perfectly. She repeated words said to her in this way; immediately forgot them, and emphatically assured a questioner that she had said nothing of the kind. She carried on a conversation with Dr. Liébeault and a M. F—, in which M. Liégeois furnished the matter, though she evidently thought the ideas were her own. All the time her state seemed perfectly normal, and she could hold her own with the assistants. To make sure that she could really see him, though unconscious of it, the experimenter called her by the same kind of impersonal suggestion to find a bottle of cologne (really ammonia) in his own pocket, which she did and enjoyed the perfume. In the same way she removed his shoe, and with it in her hand firmly denied that he was present, and assured her questioner, M. F—, when he spoke to him that he was certainly insane. The experiments support the Nancy theory of negative hallucinations, "a neutralization by the imagination of the object perceived"—rather than that of Binet and Féré, that it is "a phenomenon of inhibition which produces a systematic paralysis." If these things are true, the consequences may be important. They demonstrate once more the breadth and power of the unconscious in psychic life; they promise new means for discovering the author of suggested crimes; and, if the hallucinations of the insane, which often show a negative

as well as a positive character, are of similar nature, they suggest therapeutic possibilities.

Des expertises médico-légales en matière d'hypnotisme; recherche de l'auteur d'une suggestion criminelle. JULES LIÉGEOIS. *Revue de l'Hypnotisme*, July, 1888.

The real criminal, when crime is committed in consequence of hypnotic suggestion, is, of course, the suggester. But if he is an expert and has suggested as well that his subject refuse, in case he is rehypnotized for examination, to expose him, or to tell any of the circumstances of the suggestion, the discovery of the real criminal seems at first dubious. But from experiments made to test this point, M. Liégeois concludes that in all, or nearly all, such cases it is possible to obtain an answer. He suggested to the Mme. M— mentioned above, that on awaking she should see and shoot M. O—; further, that she be convinced that the idea was her own; that she refuse to name himself as the author of the suggestion; that she swear there was no suggestion, etc. She went through the imaginary killing, was rehypnotized by Dr. Liébeault, and assumed the guilt of the shooting according to suggestion. Dr. Liébeault then suggested to her the following: 1st, that when she sees the author of the suggestion, if there be one, she shall sleep for two minutes; 2d, that then she shall keep her eye fixed on him till the hypnotizer says *Assez*; 3d, that she shall place herself before the author of the suggestion, spreading her skirt as if to hide him, till the hypnotizer asks, Why do you wish to hide M. Liégeois? and 4th, that she shall be deaf and blind to the author of the suggestion till the hypnotizer gives the sign for the end of the performance. Everything was executed according to suggestion. On returning to her normal state she had forgotten all. A few days later, similar tests were made upon a young man by the author and Professor Bernheim, with similar or even more explicit identification of the suggester, though in one trial the professor was able by insistence partly to break down the suggested amnesia. From these cases it would appear that though the subject may be unable to reveal the suggester directly, he can be got to do so indirectly by acts of which he does not see the bearing, indeed by anything not specially interdicted in the original suggestion.

The *Revue de l'Hypnotisme* for April summarizes a series of articles on *L'hypnotisme et la suggestion en obstétrique*, by Drs. Auvard and Secheyron, from the files of the *Archives de Tocologie* for the early part of this year. From a careful study of eight cases in which some degree of hypnotism was produced, they concluded that hypnotism, probably in all its forms, is possible in accouchement, but is generally more difficult to produce than in the normal state. It serves as an anæsthetic, but is not fully and uniformly successful, because the suggestion may be badly made or not accepted by the subject, or because the uterine pain constantly recalls the subject to the waking state. If hypnotism has any effect on the progress of labor, it seems to be a certain slacking of the uterine contractions. It is not a means that can take the place of chloroform and chloral, except under very unusual circumstances. It may perhaps be used during the dilation of the neck. Suggestion in the waking state with very impressible women, or the use of pseudo-chloroform and the like, may be of real advantage in lessening the pains.